

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the work to be done in the erection of the Corn Exchange at Peterborough; the erection of the new church in Great Nelson-street, North, at Liverpool; and for extensive alterations and additions to the Devonshire County Prisons.

BUILDERS AND WATER COMPANIES.—A correspondent, who signs himself "Fair Play," writes as follows:—"Sir: Knowing your willingness to expose the evils to which builders and others are exposed, I beg, through the medium of your valuable journal, to call the attention of the Commissioners of Sewers for the Metropolitan Districts to a serious source of annoyance, by which a great deal of mischief is sometimes occasioned to contractors for building sewers. The evil to which I wish to allude relates to the vast quantities of water allowed to run down the streets where sewers are being constructed, which frequently defy the endeavours of the workmen, and break into the excavations, loosening the earth behind their shores, which drop down in consequence, leaving the undermined ground to the mercy of water, and often causing a great deal of mischief. The turncock of the district, knowing the predicament in which the contractor is placed, commonly turns on three hours instead of two; this is to induce the contractor to 'come out,' i. e., pay him a weekly stipend to 'turn on easy.' Once or twice, while the work is going on, the turncock will pretend to forget himself and 'turn on' with full force, to show what he could do in case of any stoppage in his wages. Now, Sir, as the contractors are amenable to the water companies for any damage done to their pipes, the water companies ought to be held responsible for any damage done to the contractor's work through their waste water. I trust this matter will receive some attention from the higher quarters."

THE NATIONAL CLOCK.—When completed, the Westminster Palace clock will be the most powerful one in the empire. According to the specification given in certain Parliamentary papers which have been published, it is to "strike the hours on a bell of from eight to ten tons, and, if practicable, chime the quarters upon eight bells, and show the time upon four dials about 30 feet in diameter." With the exception of a skeleton dial at Malines, the above dimensions, as remarked by a writer in *Chambers's Journal*, surpass those of any other clock-face in Europe. The dial of St. Paul's is as yet the largest in this country with a minute-hand; it is 18 feet in diameter. The new one is to be an eight-day clock, and as perfect as possible. Its formation is to be under the direction and approval of Mr. Airy, the astronomer-royal. Among the conditions drawn up by him are these:—"The frame to be of cast-iron; wheels of hard bell-metal, with steel spindles, working in bell-metal bearings, and to be separately shipped and unshipped. Accuracy of movement to be insured by dead-beat escapement, compensating pendulum, and going fusee. The first blow of the hammer, when striking the hour, to be within a second of true time. Galvanic communication will probably be established with Greenwich Observatory. The four sets of hands, with the motion wheels, it has been calculated, will weigh twelve hundredweight; the head of the hammer two hundred pounds; the weights from one hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds; and the pendulum bob, three hundredweight. One of the candidates proposes to jewel the escapement pallet with sapphires. The motion of the minute-hand is not to be constant; it will move once every twenty seconds, when it will go over a space of nearly four inches. The papers alluded to contain the names of three candidates for the honour of making the national clock—Mr. Vulliamy, Mr. Dent, and Mr. Whitehurst of Derby. Two estimates have been sent in, one for 1,600*l.*—the other, 3,373*l.* "As it is intended," says the astronomer-royal, "that this clock should be one of which the nation may be proud, I would propose that the access to it should be a good one, and even slightly ornamented, and that facility should be given to the inspection of the clock by mechanics and by foreigners."

FIRST COMPENSATION CASE, BATTERSEA.—Mr. Chabon's case is, we understand, to be taken to the Court of Queen's Bench.

SINGULAR MONUMENT.—The *Daily News* gives the following account, from Rome, of a curious monument lately produced there.—"The lovers of eccentricity are glad to know that Dyce Sombre is to be among us to-morrow; and the sculptor Tadolini, who has been 20,000 dollars out of pocket in erecting a monster mausoleum to his grandmother, the begum of Sumroo,—hopes he may get repaid. This mausoleum is, by Dyce Sombre's directions, adorned with over twenty marble statues of various personages:—the begum herself smoking her hookah in grand state on the top of the cenotaph, and Dyce (aforesaid) in full uniform standing sword in hand before her. There are angels performing various operations,—also a platoon of sepoy in black marble, and a few elephants:—being the drollest monumental conglomeration in Europe." We observe since, that the Court of Chancery have granted a sum of money to pay the sculptor, and bring the monument to England.

ARCHAEOLOGY.—The last number of the *Literary Gazette* is rich in notices of antiquarian works, including Mr. Bateman's "Vestiges of the Antiquities of Derbyshire," Mr. Beale Poste's "History of the College of All Saints, Maidstone," Parts IX. and X. of Mr. Roach Smith's interesting "Collectanea Antiqua," and an article on French archaeology.—The British Archaeological Association will meet this evening (Friday).—The Archaeological Institute has interfered to prevent, if possible, the proposed destruction of the stone rood-screen at Christ Church, in Hampshire, concerning which a letter appeared in our columns some time since. According to the *Athenaeum* the following are amongst the arguments for its preservation which have been transmitted to the Earl of Malmesbury:—1. Because the amount of space in the nave and transepts allotted to the congregation is more than sufficient at present, and the removal of the rood-screen, and the conversion of the nave and choir into one large auditorium, would be practically inconvenient, inasmuch as the clergyman, who is now imperfectly heard, would be wholly inaudible to many of the congregation; and 2. Because the church shews the most perfect arrangement of a conventual building extant, being complete in its nave, aisles, transepts, chancel, lady chapel, sacristy, chantry chapels, and reredos, which remain undisturbed in their ancient proportions; further, that the stone rood-screen exhibits, even in its shattered state, the remains of certainly the most beautiful rood-screen of the time of Edward III. in this country, its double tier of niches being chaste in design and of bold and masterly execution.

THE GREEK SCENE AT THE ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—At the beginning of 1846 we gave an engraving of the scene which was painted for the representation of that noble tragedy, "Antigone," at Covent Garden Theatre, and described, at some length, the ancient Greek stage from which it was taken. Following a good example, the enterprising Mr. Mitchell, in producing the same tragedy by the French company, at the St. James's Theatre, has prepared a similar scene, not quite so elaborate as that we have alluded to, but preserving the main features.

MR. WARD'S MEZZOTINTO ENGRAVINGS.—We have had occasion before this to mention some very effective heads by Mr. G. R.

"When the noble proprietor (the Earl of Romsey) determined recently to alter the destination of these buildings, and for that purpose cleared away the numerous additions and encumbrances that had been rendered necessary by their application to farming purposes, it was found that a very large portion of the original edifice remained almost unimpaired, and might, without much difficulty, be restored, so as to form a very interesting example of the domestic architecture of the middle ages. Mr. Beale Poste, who, residing on the spot, watched carefully the progress of the alterations, has, in the volume before us, given a careful description of these interesting remains, accompanied with a history of the college, and some valuable notices of the collegiate church, which now forms the parish church of the town of Maidstone. The present remains of the college consist of a range of rooms with cloisters and tower, supposed to have been the kitchen and lodgings of the priests, and believed to be the most ancient part of the remaining buildings; what is supposed to have been the master's house, a tower near the master's house, a large gate-way tower, two large barns, and a second or back gate-way tower, the latter partly in ruins. The only portions which seem to have been destroyed are, a building to the left of the principal gate-way in the meadows, part of the range of rooms and cloisters above mentioned, and, as it is supposed, some cloisters attached to the master's house. Since these buildings were cleared in 1813, Mr. Poste informs us that the remaining cloisters and one of the barns have been removed, and some other alterations to the buildings have been altered, in accordance with the change in their destination."—*Literary Gazette*.

† Vol. IV. p. 18.

Ward. He has now completed an engraving of the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., after F. Grant, A.R.A., which merits commendation; and he has in hand portraits of the Earl of Harewood on horseback, with hounds; Mr. Hudson, M.P.; Mr. Dover, M.P.; Mr. Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, and Sir Tatton Sykes on horseback, all after the same artist.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.—The Town Council of Liverpool resolved, on the 11th instant, to raise 25,000*l.* for carrying Sir Henry Dukinfield's Act into execution. The corporation of Liverpool have already two establishments of public baths and washhouses in active operation.—The London establishment are seeking assistance, and ought to have it. In furtherance of the model baths, &c., in Goulston-square, the committee have incurred great liabilities. We would direct attention to their advertisement.

ESCAPE OF ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.—On Tuesday last St. Saviour's Church narrowly escaped being burnt down by fire, which originated amongst the coffins in the vaults. It is supposed that a spark fell on some sawdust during a funeral. How much longer will the suicidal practice of burying in churches be continued?

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "An Architect."—We will inquire into the matter complained of.
 "A. C."—We will refer to the syllabus next week.
 "L."—We cannot give a safe opinion on such information.
 "H. P."—Write to Mr. Mitton's manufactory. We think it may be done.
 "J. T. A."—We hope to use the drawing.
 "D. G. L."—We propose looking it at the "Scotch Church."
 "Architects' Plans."—A correspondent asks,—"An architect is employed to draw plans and superintend the erection or restoration of a public edifice—do such plans (after completion of work) become the property of the employers of such architect, or can they be retained by him as his personal property?"—It is customary for the architect to retain them.
 Received.—"J. Y." "J. L." "W. C." "J. C." "W. M. G." "R. K." (thanks). "J. P. W." "A Subscriber" (We hope to keep his opinion). "Subscriber" (Tredgold's Carpentry). "H. M. C." (thanks). "An Old Subscriber" (We have not time to give the information required). "B. W." "H. S. H." "J. D." (Trap). "An Architect" (Canterbury). "P. M." (Edinburgh), shall hear from us. "Designs for Helicon, by H. E. Kendall, jun., Architect, F.S.A." Williams and Co., 11, Strand.

TO PROVINCIAL READERS.—In reply to complaints of the irregular delivery of *The Builder* in provincial towns, we beg leave to state that it is invariably published by seven o'clock on Friday morning; and that the irregularity complained of arises entirely with the parties through whom it is obtained.

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